

Montana Drought Advisory Committee



USDA, NASS, Montana
Field Office

Peggy Stringer
Director

May 1, 2007

Just What the Doctor Ordered



May 1, 2007

April moisture improves winter wheat



May 1, 2007




Montana

Prospective Plantings

March 2007

	2007 Intentions (1,000)	2006 Planted (1,000)	% Change
All Wheat	5,180	5,300	-2
Winter Wheat	2,200	1,950	+13
Durum Wheat	380	400	-5
Other Spring Wheat	2,600	2,950	-12
Barley	800	770	+4

May 1, 2007



Montana Prospective Plantings March 2007

Planted acres	2007	2006	%Change
All hay (harvest) (million ac)	2.35	2.26	+4
Sugar beets	47,800	53,600	-11
Dry edible beans	22,000	19,500	+13
Canola	17,000	10,000	+70
Flaxseed	25,000	35,000	-29

May 1, 2007



Crop Weather Report

April 16, 2007

- Producers are getting started on fieldwork, about the same as last season
- Farmers are waiting for more suitable weather and fields to dry out before planting
- Topsoil moisture conditions ahead of last year; subsoil ahead of last year
- Winter wheat condition mostly good



Winter Wheat Crop Progress Behind Last Year

April 16, 2007	This week	Last week	Last Year
Dormant	7%	12%	4%
Greening	33%	40%	23%
Greening & Growing	60%	48%	73%

May 1, 2007



Field Tillage Progress

Slightly ahead of last year but behind the 5-year average

April 16, 2007	This week	Last week	Last Year	5 Yr Avg
None	64%	72%	64%	52%
Just Started	20%	19%	23%	25%
Well Underway	16%	9%	13%	23%

May 1, 2007



Winter Wheat

Condition slightly better than last year & ahead of the 5-year average

April 16, 2007	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	0%	4%	30%	54%	12%
Last week	1%	4%	27%	54%	14%
Last year	1%	5%	35%	46%	13%
5-yr avg	9%	12%	35%	36%	8%

May 1, 2007



Seeding Completed

Nearly the same as last year but behind the 5-year average

April 16, 2007	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Barley	14%	10%	11%	18%
Oats	5%	3%	6%	8%
Spring Wheat	6%	5%	8%	10%

May 1, 2007



Topsoil Moisture

Improved from last year & well ahead of 5-yr average

April 16, 2007	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short	3%	3%	4%	15%
Short	11%	15%	15%	27%
Adequate	76%	70%	69%	53%
Surplus	10%	12%	12%	5%

May 1, 2007



Subsoil Moisture

Improved from last year & well ahead of 5-yr average

April 16, 2007	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short	8%	10%	10%	30%
Short	25%	31%	28%	34%
Adequate	63%	55%	57%	34%
Surplus	4%	4%	5%	2%

May 1, 2007



Livestock Grazing

April 16, 2007

- Pastures & range conditions similar to last year but behind five-year average
- 75% of grazing land open - about the same as five-year average
- 89% cattle & calves & 93% sheep & lambs receiving supplemental feed



Calving & Lambing completed by *April 16, 2007*

- 81% of cows have calved
- 65% of ewes have lambed
- Calving & lambing rates nearly the same as last year



Range & Pasture Feed Condition

Slightly behind last year

April 16, 2007	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	1%	20%	40%	32%	7%
Last week	3%	19%	44%	30%	4%
Last year	3%	10%	43%	36%	8%

May 1, 2007



To Sum It Up

- Most grazing land open
- Most livestock receiving supplemental feed
- Farmers and ranchers are optimistic because of good moisture conditions across the state
- Cool temperatures have slowed growing conditions for winter wheat
- Farmers are waiting for more suitable weather to get into the fields

Conditions look better with moisture!



May 1, 2007